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TITLE: One-Sleeved RaincoatINVENTOR: Richard Woodfork, Jr.15 DOC NO.: 13715BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

20 1. Field of the Invention

The invention generally relates to a raincoat, and in particular relates to a one-sleeved raincoat capable of protecting both the person of the user and items which are
25 carried by the user from becoming wet by falling rain.

2. Description of the Related Art

A great variety of raincoats are available for
30 protecting portions of a user's body from becoming wet by falling rain. However, the preponderance of these raincoats do not prevent purses, briefcases, bags, and other personal

belongings carried by the user from becoming wet by falling rain. Accordingly, there is a need for a raincoat capable of shielding a body and head of a user from falling rain, and additionally capable of shielding purses, briefcases, bags,
5 and other personal belongings carried by the user from rainfall.

A variety of protective garments have been devised for keeping both a body of a user and items carried by the user from becoming wet during rainfall. For example, United
10 States Patent No. 2,540,448 to Karow appears to show a protective garment for a mailman capable of covering a mailbag, thereby allowing it to remain dry during rainfall. Additionally, United States Patent No. 2,158,797 to Hill appears to show a protective garment having one sleeve and
15 allowing the user to carry and protect a package underneath. Furthermore, United States Patent No. 1,239,995 to Whiteside appears to show a protective garment for use by a mailman, having a cape for selectively draping over a mailbag.

While these devices may be suitable for the particular
20 purpose employed, or for general use, they would not be as suitable for the purposes of the present invention as disclosed hereafter.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the invention to provide a raincoat
5 capable of substantially preventing a body of a user and also
the head of the user from becoming wet even during periods of
very heavy rainfall. Accordingly, the raincoat is
substantially full-length and covers the user from the neck
down to the feet of the user, with the exception of the
10 hands, and thereby substantially prevents the body of the
user from becoming wet even during periods of very heavy
rainfall. Additionally, the raincoat has a hood compartment
for selectively storing a hood, for preventing the head of
the user from becoming wet during periods of rainfall.

15 It is one of the primary objects of the invention to
provide a raincoat capable of protecting purses, briefcases,
bags, and other personal belongings carried by the user from
becoming wet by falling rain. Accordingly, the raincoat
features a one-sleeve design. One of the arms of the user
20 selectively extends through the sleeve, while the other arm
and hand of the user, and the personal belongings selectively
carried within said other arm and hand, remain covered within
and shielded by the raincoat, thereby protecting the personal
belongings carried by the user within said other arm and hand
25 from becoming wet by rainfall.

Further objects of the invention will become apparent in
the detailed description of the invention which follows.

The invention is a raincoat capable of substantially protecting a body and a head of a user from becoming wet by falling rain, and additionally capable of protecting various personal belongings carried by the user from falling rain.

5 The raincoat has a single sleeve through which one of the arms of the user selectively extends. The other arm and hand of the user, selectively used for carrying various personal belongings, selectively remain within and covered by the raincoat in order to prevent the personal belongings from
10 becoming wet by falling rain, but may be extended as needed through a sealable arm opening positioned at a location on the raincoat opposed to the position from which the sleeve extends. The raincoat has a zippered hood compartment for selectively storing a hood. In use, the raincoat and
15 attached hood substantially cover the user from the head down to the feet of the user, with the exception of the hands of the user.

To the accomplishment of the above and related objects the invention may be embodied in the form illustrated in the
20 accompanying drawings. Attention is called to the fact, however, that the drawings are illustrative only. Variations are contemplated as being part of the invention, limited only by the scope of the claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the drawings, like elements are depicted by like reference numerals. The drawings are briefly described as follows.

FIG 1 is a perspective view of a raincoat, wherein a front of the raincoat is substantially visible.

10 FIG 2 is a perspective view of the raincoat, wherein a back of the raincoat is substantially visible.

FIG 3 is a perspective view of the raincoat being worn by a user carrying a briefcase having an associated shoulder strap.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

FIG 1 illustrates a raincoat 10, capable of substantially protecting the person of a user from falling rain, and additionally capable of protecting a variety of items carried by the user from falling rain. The raincoat 10 has a front 10F, a back 10R, a top 10T, a bottom 10B, two opposing lateral sides 10S, an internally oriented surface 10I which contacts the body of the user while the raincoat 10 is being worn by the user, and an externally oriented surface 10E. The externally oriented surface 10E of the raincoat 10 is substantially constructed from a waterproof vinyl or plastic material, lightweight enough to be comfortable, while still affording protection from the rain. The raincoat 10 has a chest portion 34 and a leg portion 36. The chest portion 34 completely covers and protects the torso of the user, and the leg portion 36 completely covers the legs of the user. In FIG 1, the externally oriented surface 10E of the front 10F of the raincoat 10 is substantially visible.

The raincoat 10 has a single sleeve 12 extending from one of the lateral sides 10S of the raincoat 10 in proximity to the top 10T of the raincoat 10, through which one of the arms of the user selectively extends. In use, the sleeve 12 covers and protects said arm of the user from becoming wet by rainfall.

The raincoat 10 has a selectively sealable arm opening 28 positioned in proximity to the top 10T of the lateral side

10S of the raincoat 10 opposed to the lateral side 10S from which the sleeve 12 extends. The arm and hand of the user which are not extended through the sleeve 12 selectively remain within and are covered by the raincoat 10 in order to prevent items carried by said arm and hand from becoming wet by falling rain, but may be extended as needed from the arm opening 28.

The raincoat 10 will be provided in a right-handed version for a right-handed user, and a left-handed version for a left-handed user. The right-handed user will generally carry personal belongings using the right arm and hand. Accordingly, the right-handed version will have a single sleeve extending from the left lateral side of the raincoat 10, and the right hand and arm of the user which selectively carries the personal belongings of the user will be covered and shielded by the raincoat 10. Analogously, the left-handed version will have a single sleeve extending from the right lateral side of the raincoat 10, and the left hand and arm of the user which selectively carries the personal belongings of the user will be covered and shielded by the raincoat 10. The raincoat 10 is appropriately sized to accommodate a variety of different objects that the user may carry underneath the raincoat 10.

The external surface 10E of the raincoat 10 has two substantially vertically aligned openings, namely a chest pocket opening 30 and a pants pocket opening 32. The chest pocket opening 30 and the pants pocket opening 32 are

positioned upon the same lateral side 10S of the raincoat 10 from which the sleeve 12 extends. The openings 30 and 32 allow the user to access the shirt pocket of an existing shirt or the pants pocket of an existing pair of pants worn
5 by the user, respectively, without having to fully open the raincoat 10 and thereby expose the body of the user to rainfall. Each of the openings 30 and 32 has an associated flap, 30F and 32F, respectively, for selectively covering the openings 30 and 32, in order to prevent rain from getting
10 inside the raincoat 10. Each of the flaps 30F and 32F has a strip of fastening material attached thereunto. Correspondingly, the externally oriented surface 10E of the raincoat 10 has strips of fastening material suitably positioned for selectively engaging the strips of fastening
15 material on the flaps 30F and 32F, in order to create a waterproof seal when the flaps 30F and 32F are used to cover the openings 30 and 32, respectively. The fastening material is preferably the hook and loop fastener known by the trade name Velcro. It is contemplated that the raincoat 10 will be
20 provided with a chest pocket and a pant pocket on its internally oriented surface, in proximity to the chest pocket opening 30 and the pants pocket opening 32, respectively, for selectively holding a variety of items.

The front 10F of the raincoat 10 has a centrally
25 located, vertically oriented zipper 62, extending fully from the top 10T to the bottom 10B of the raincoat 10, for allowing the user 40 to selectively close the raincoat 10

during use. The zipper 62 has a waterproof zipper flap 62F which selectively overlays the zipper 62, thereby ensuring that water will not enter the raincoat 10 through the zipper 62. The zipper flap 62 has a strip of fastening material
5 running along a substantial portion of its length.

Correspondingly, the raincoat 10 has a strip of fastening material in proximity to the zipper flap 62 for selectively engaging the fastening material on the zipper flap 62F after the zipper flap 62 has been overlaid over the zipper 62. The
10 fastening material is preferably the hook and loop fastener known by the trade name Velcro.

The raincoat 10 has a substantially circular collar 26 which encircles the neck of the user while the raincoat 10 is being worn, after the zipper 62 has been closed. The head
15 and neck of the user extend through the collar 26 while the raincoat 10 is being worn.

FIG 2 illustrates a view of the raincoat 10 wherein the back 10R of the raincoat 10 is substantially visible. The back 10R of the raincoat 10 has a hood compartment 24 in
20 proximity to the collar 26 for selectively storing a hood 20. The hood compartment 24 has a zipper 22 for selectively closing the hood compartment 24 when the hood 20 is being stored therein.

FIG 3 illustrates a raincoat 10 being worn by a user 40
25 having a head 54 having a face 56 having a chin 42, a neck 58, a torso 44, two arms 46 each having a hand 48, and two legs 50 each having a lower part 50L and each having a foot

52. The user 40 is carrying a briefcase 66 having a shoulder strap 66L. The raincoat 10 is substantially full-length, and covers the user 40 from the neck 58 to the lower part 50L of the legs 50 of the user 40, with the exception of the hands 48 and the feet 52 of the user 40. One of the arms 46 of the user 40 extends through the sleeve 12. The other arm 46 and hand 48 are being used to carry the briefcase 66 by its associated shoulder strap 66L, and said arm 46 and hand 48, and the briefcase 66, are completely covered by the raincoat 10. The hood 20 has been selectively extended from the hood compartment 24, and is being used to cover the head 54 of the user 40. The hood 20 has a substantially oval face opening 20F through which the face 56 of the user 40 protrudes during use. The face opening 20F has an elastic strip 20E around its perimeter, thereby ensuring a "tight fit" so that the head 54 of the user 40 remains dry even in very heavy rain conditions. The hood 20 is constructed from vinyl or plastic. The hood 20 is equipped with a chinstrap 65 for selectively firmly anchoring the hood 20 to the chin 42 and head 54 of the user 40. The hood 20 selectively covers the back and top of the head 54 of the user 40, and also substantially covers the neck 58 of the user 40, thereby protecting the neck 58 and head 54 of the user 40 from becoming wet by falling rain.

25 In use, the raincoat 10 is worn by the user 40 over the existing clothes of the user 40. The user 40 chooses a right-handed or left-handed version of the raincoat 10,

depending on whether the user is right-handed or left-handed, respectively. The user 40 selects a raincoat 10 having a size and girth capable of accommodating both the body of the user 40 and the items that the user 40 expects to carry
5 underneath the raincoat 10. For example, a mailman would choose a raincoat 10 having a size which is capable of fully covering both the body of the mailman and a potentially bulky mailbag carried by the mailman. The user 40 extends one of the arms 46 of the user 40 through the sleeve 12, and then
10 substantially covers the remaining part of the body of the user 40 with the raincoat 10. The user 40 closes the centrally located zipper 62. The user 40 overlays the zipper flap 62 over the zipper 62, and secures the zipper flap 62 by mating the fastening material on the zipper 62 with the
15 corresponding strip of fastening material extending along the length of the raincoat 10 in proximity to the zipper 62. The user 40 closes the chest pocket opening 30, the pants pocket opening 32, and the arm opening 28, with the flaps 30F, 32F, and 28F provided for this purpose, and secures said flaps by
20 mating the fastening material of the flaps with the corresponding strips of fastening material located on the externally oriented surface 10E of the raincoat 10. The user 40 selectively extends the hood 20 of the raincoat 10 over the head 54 of the user 40 and secures the chinstrap 65
25 underneath the chin 42 of the user 40. In the event that the user 40 needs to retrieve an item carried by the arm 46 and hand 48 of the user 40 which are shielded underneath the

raincoat 10, the user 40 disengages the fastening material of the flap 28F from the underlying fastening material on the raincoat 10 with the hand 48 of the arm 46 which extends through the sleeve 12, extends said arm 46 through the arm opening 28, and grasps and retrieves the item with the hand 48 of said arm 46. After donning the raincoat 10, the user 40 may confidently walk outdoors during even heavy rainfall without fearing that the user 40 or the items carried by the user 40 will become wet by rainfall.

In conclusion, herein is presented a raincoat capable of shielding a substantial portion of a human body from rainfall, and also capable of shielding items carried by the user from rainfall. The invention is illustrated by example in the drawing figures, and throughout the written description. It should be understood that numerous variations are possible, while adhering to the inventive concept. Such variations are contemplated as being a part of the present invention.